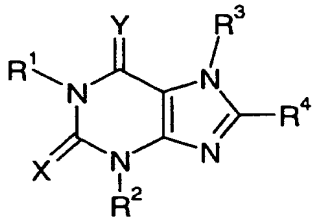
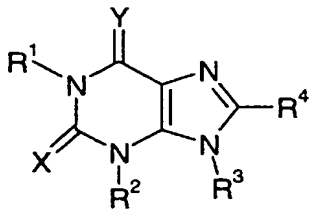
Claims

1. A compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib)



(Ia)

or



(Ib)

wherein:

one of X and Y represents S, and the other represents O or S;

R^1 represents hydrogen or C1 to 6 alkyl;

R^2 represents hydrogen or C1 to 6 alkyl; said alkyl group being optionally substituted by:

i) a saturated or partially unsaturated 3- to 7-membered ring optionally incorporating one or two heteroatoms selected independently from O, N and S, and optionally incorporating a carbonyl group; said ring being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halogen, hydroxy, C1 to 6 alkoxy and C1 to 6 alkyl; said alkyl being optionally further substituted by hydroxy or C1 to 6 alkoxy; or

ii) C1 to 6 alkoxy; or

iii) an aromatic ring selected from phenyl, furyl or thienyl; said aromatic ring being optionally further substituted by halogen, C1 to 6 alkyl or C1 to 6 alkoxy;

R^3 represents hydrogen or C1 to 6 alkyl;

R^4 represents halogen, C1 to 6 alkyl substituted by one or more halogen atoms, C1 to 6 alkoxy or C1 to 6 thioalkoxy; said alkoxy or thioalkoxy group being optionally further substituted by halogen or OH;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

2. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein X represents S and Y represents O.

3. A compound according to Claim 1 or Claim 2 wherein R^3 represents H.

4. A compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 3 wherein R^2 represents optionally substituted C1 to 6 alkyl.

5. A compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib), according to Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use as a medicament.

6. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib) according to Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, optionally in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

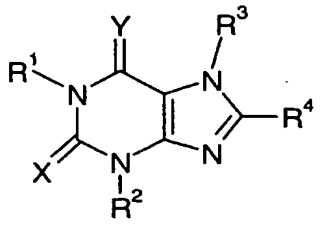
7. A method of treating, or reducing the risk of, diseases or conditions in which inhibition of the enzyme MPO is beneficial which comprises administering to a person suffering from or at risk of, said disease or condition, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib), as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. The use of a compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib) as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament, for the treatment or prophylaxis of diseases or conditions in which inhibition of the enzyme MPO is beneficial.

9. The use of a compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib) as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament, for the treatment or prophylaxis of neuroinflammatory disorders.

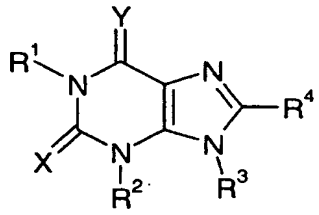
10. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib), as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, enantiomer, diastereomer or racemate thereof, wherein the process comprises:

(a) reaction of a compound of formula (IIa) or (IIb)



(IIa)

or



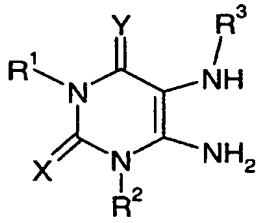
(IIb)

wherein R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are as defined in formula (Ia) or (Ib), X represents O or S and Y represents O;

with a sulphurising compound such as Lawesson's reagent or phosphorus pentasulphide;

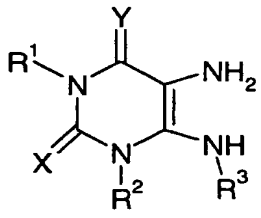
to give a corresponding compound wherein Y represents S; or

(b) reaction of a diamine of formula (IIIa) or (IIIb)



(IIIa)

or



(IIIb)

wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, X and Y are as defined in formula (Ia) or (Ib);

with a trialkylorthoester or with an alpha-halo-substituted carboxylic acid or anhydride;

and where necessary converting the resultant compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib), or another salt thereof, into a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or converting the resultant compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib) into a further compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib); and where desired converting the resultant compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib) into an optical isomer thereof.

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